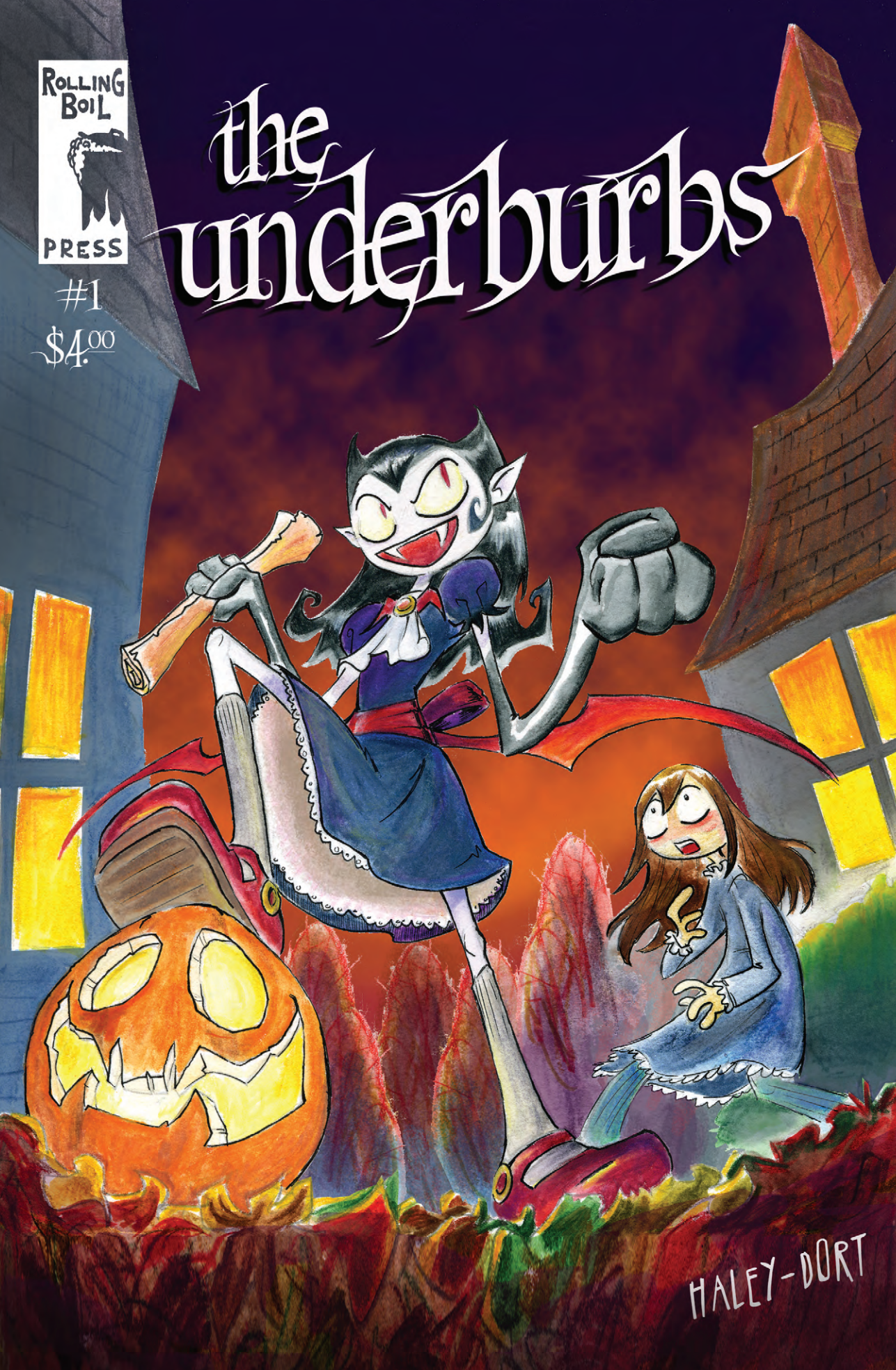
ROLLING BOIL
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the underburbs
HALEY-DORT

Underburbs #1:
the beginnening

The Story Thus Far.....Joe Haley & T. J. Dort

The Rendered Line, the Written Word.....Joe Haley

The Greyscale, by Way of Brush.....T. J. Dort

The Mostly Painted Cover.....Joe Haley

The Title, Designed Graphically.....Scott Whipple

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(yes, you have to pronounce it "the ***underscore*** underburbs")

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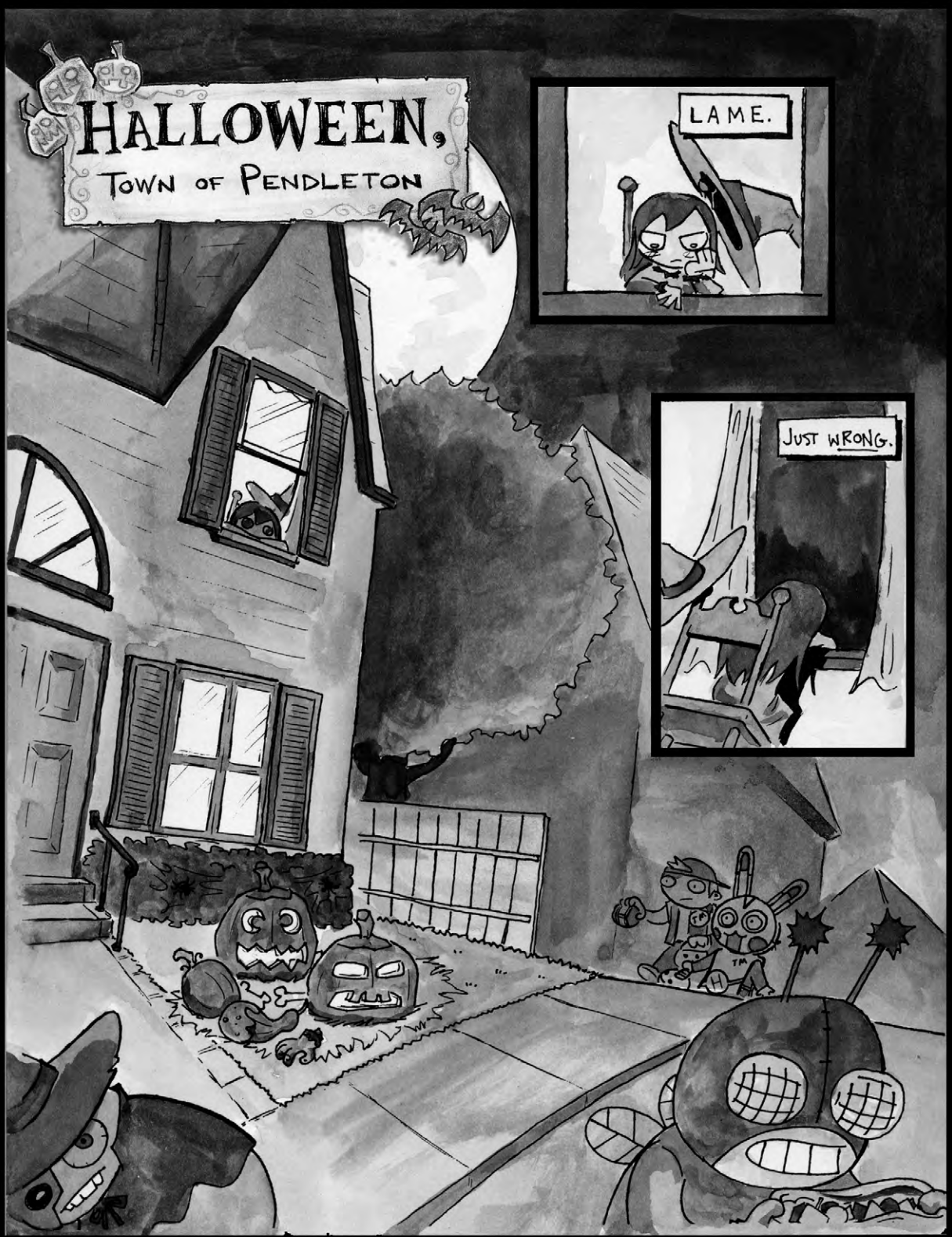

HALLOWEEN,
TOWN OF PENDLETON
LAME.
JUST WRONG.

OH, MAN... JUST NO.
SIGH IS THAT EVEN LEGALLY A COSTUME?
IT'S HALLOWEEN, NOT HAT DAY.
I'LL GIVE HIM THAT ONE.
DON'T GET ANY SMART IDEAS, ANGELA. I TOLD YOU, YOU NEED TO STAY INSIDE WITH A COLD LIKE THAT.
CRAZY PSYCHIATRIST

THIS WAS IT FOR ME, YOU KNOW. MY LAST TRICK-OR-TREAT.

I DECIDED ON MY OWN THAT I'D BE TOO OLD NEXT YEAR, AND NOW I GET SICK? WHAT A RIP-OFF!
GLU

WELL, I'M SORRY SWEETIE. MAYBE WE CAN HAVE A SPECIAL NIGHT NEXT WEEKEND. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP HAND OUT CANDY?
MOM, PLEASE. I HAVEN'T HAD THE PROPER TIME TO MOURN YET.

AT LEAST YOUR SENSE OF DRAMA'S BACK. LET'S SEE IF YOU HAVE AN APPETITE, TOO.

AND LEAVE YOUR BROTHER AND HIS FRIENDS ALONE. I DON'T WANT THEM CATCHING YOUR COLD.

AND CHEER UP, WILL YA?

CREEP.

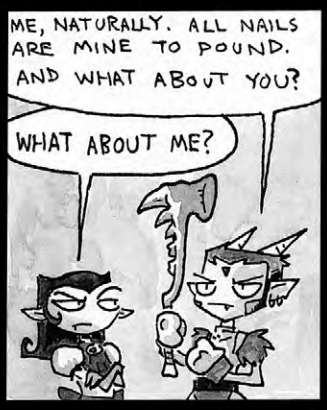
OF THE SHADOWWWSS...
BAH WEEP GRANNA WEEP NINNY-BAHN...
COUGH
OH SPIRITS OF EVIL! COME TO OUR REALM AND GRANT US THE POWER OF THE UNDYING ONES!
OOOOPRESSHAAMUSSAAAAAAAAA
LALALAMULA
HEAR ME, SPIRITS! GIVE IN TO MY POWER AND SHOW YOURSELVES!

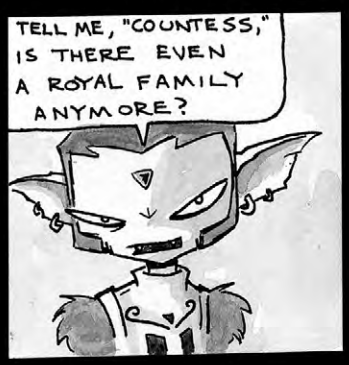
HEY, DAMON.
DAMIEN. CALL ME DAMIEN WHEN I'M DOING THIS.
YEAH, WELL NOTHING'S HAPPENING.
DID YOU DO SOMETHING WRONG?
NO! I DID EVERYTHING THE INTERNET TOLD ME TO DO!
I DUNNO... MAYBE MY CHANT WAS OFF...
RUMBLE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I DON'T KNOW! I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING WAS SUPPOSED TO SHAKE!
THE FIRE'S REALLY WARM!
RUMBLE

SUCCESS!
I HAVE BROKEN THROUGH TO THE WORLD OF THE HUMANS!
LET THE CARNAGE BEGI-
OOF!
BAD DEMON! I DIDN'T CONJURE YOU SO YOU COULD SPEAK OUT OF TURN, BRUCE.
WHAP!

NONE MAY CALL ME BY THAT NAME! I AM THE HAMMER! I AM HE WHO DRIVES THE FINAL NAIL INTO THE COFFIN MADE OF THE CORPSES OF ALL WHO STAND IN MY WAY!!

"NONE MAY...?" MAY I REMIND YOU, BRUCE, THAT I AM A COUNTESS, AND YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS SUCH.
AND THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WHO HAMMERS THE OTHER NAILS?
POKE!
POKED!


ME, NATURALLY. ALL NAILS ARE MINE TO POUND. AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT ABOUT ME?


TELL ME, "COUNTESS," IS THERE EVEN A ROYAL FAMILY ANYMORE?

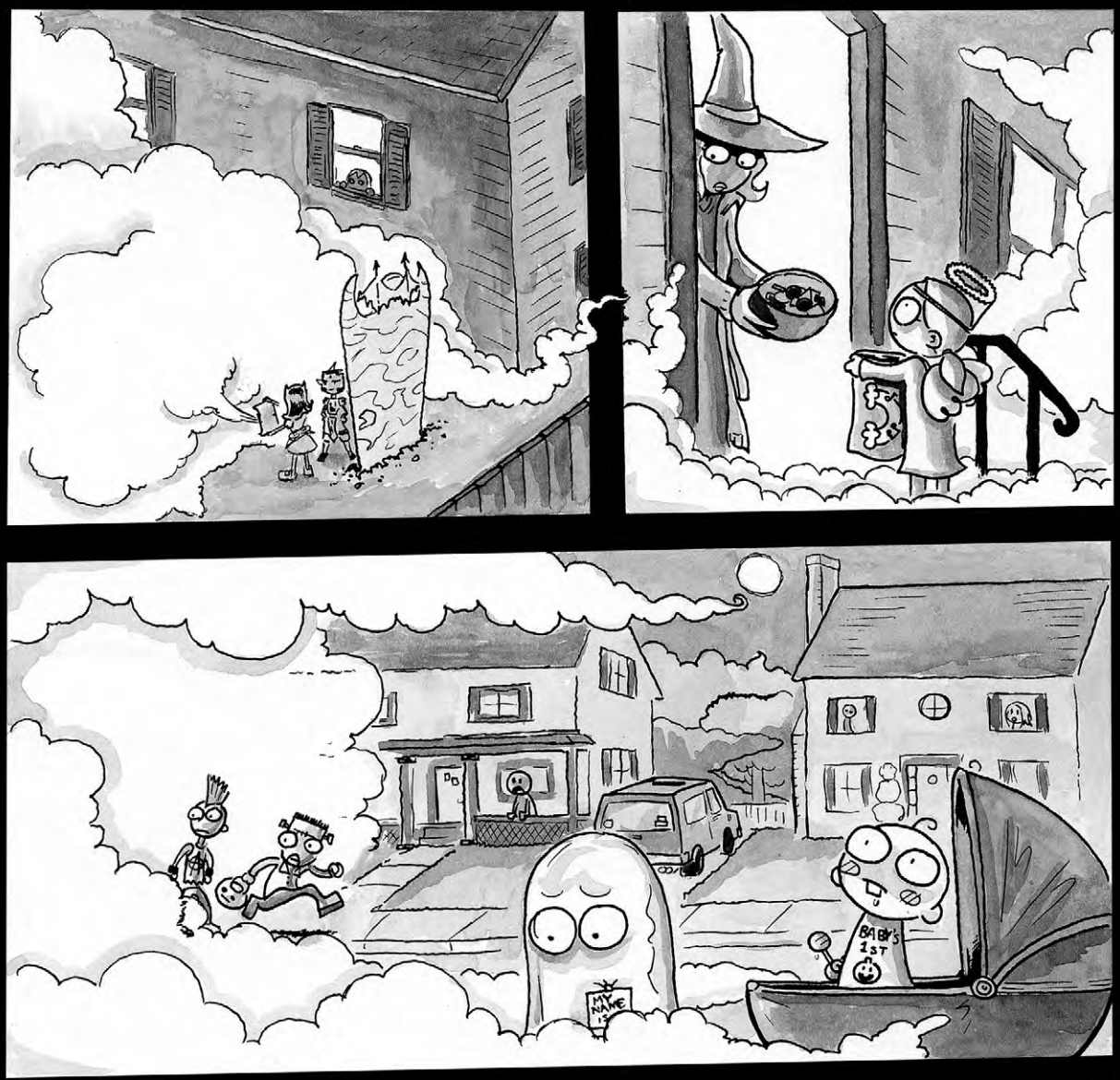
HM.
AHEM... HAMMER?

YES, MY COUNTESS!
NO CARNAGE FOR NOW. LET'S STICK TO THE PLAN.

GAH! WHO ARE YOU?

UHH...
DUDE, SHE LOOKS KINDA LIKE YOUR SISTER.

YOU HAVE THE HONOR OF BECOMING MY FIRST WAVE OF HENCHMEN!
FOOSH!
AAAA


BABY'S 1ST
MY NAME IS

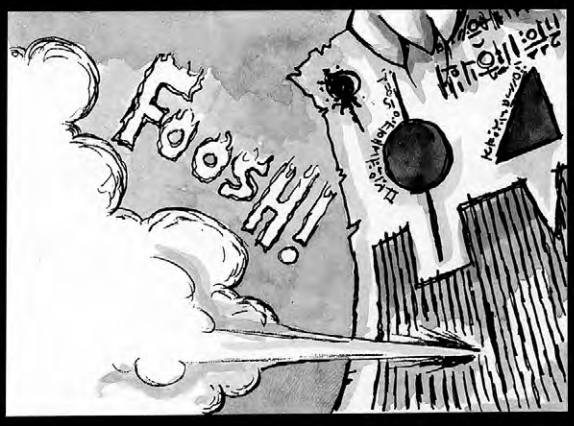
COUGH WOW! NOW THAT WAS A LOT OF MIST!

DIDN'T YOU THINK SO, HAMMER? I MEAN, I KNEW THERE WOULD BE A LOT, BUT THAT WAS A LOT.

WELL, LET'S SEE HOW OUR THREE FRIENDS TURNED OUT.

HA HA HA HAAA!
PERFECT!
PERFECT!

...EXCEPT YOU. YOU LOOK TOO GOOD.
HUH?


FOOSH!

AWW!.. I HAD SELF-ESTEEM.
AND NOW YOU HAVE COOL BOOTS. QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.

WHOA! THESE ARE COOL!
NOW ALL OF YOU, SCOUT AROUND AND SEE HOW FAR MY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE HAS REACHED, THEN REPORT BACK TO THE HAMMER.

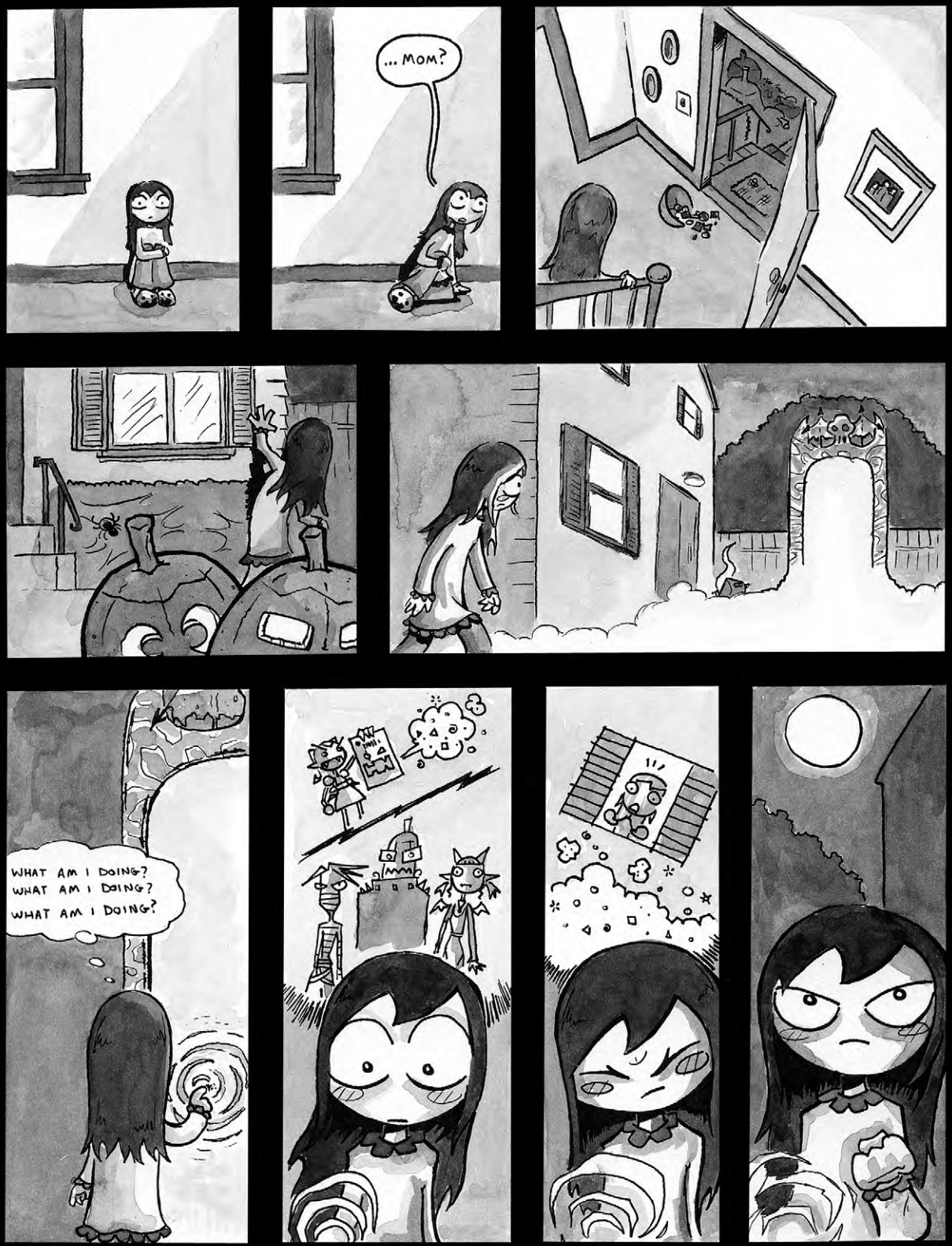
REPORT OR PERISH!

HAMMER, NO LAYING WASTE TO THE NEW RECRUITS!
AT LEAST, NOT ON THEIR FIRST MISSION.

HAMMER! MINIONS! YOU HAVE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS! NOW I MUST GO!
I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR DINNER.

SO LIKE, I DIDN'T SUMMON YOU GUYS AT ALL, DID I?
ARE YOU KIDDING? OF COURSE NOT.
DAMMIT!

OKAY, ENOUGH IDLE CHIT-CHAT. I REQUIRE INFORMATION. AND CORPSES! ENOUGH TO BUILD A SMALL COFFIN.


... MOM?
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT AM I DOING?

OKAY.

I'M OKAY.

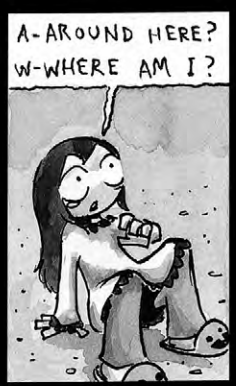
hoot.

STUB!
!!

IT'S QUIET AND EVERYTHING IS OKAY.

AHHHHHH!!
WHATAMIDOING-WHATAMI
DOINGWHATAMIDOIN
GWHATAMIDOI--

HEY, A HUMAN! WE DON'T SEE TOO MANY OF YOU AROUND HERE!


A-AROUND HERE? W-WHERE AM I?

THE "EVIL DIMENSION." IT PROBABLY HAS A NAME, BUT I'M NOT BIG ON LABELS.

SPOIT!
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TRY TO EAT ME?

BLECCH!

WITH ALL THE STRESS AND CRAP YOU PEOPLE CONSUME, YOU'RE WAY TOO STRINGY AND BLAND.
PLUS, I CAN SMELL THE NASTY COLD YOU HAVE.
AND I JUST BRUSHED.
OH. THEN WHAT DO YOU EAT?

OH, YOU KNOW... SQUIRRELS, RACCOONS, THE OCCASIONAL CANADIAN.

RELAX, KID, I'M JUST JOKING.
...OR AM I?

UM, WELL... DID YOU SEE A GIRL WITH BLACK HAIR AND FANGS COME THROUGH HERE?
OH, YEAH. I SAW HER.

PALE MANOR, UNDERBOROUGH
YOUNG LADY, EVIL TIME DOES NOT START AND STOP AT YOUR LEISURE. YOUR MOTHER-
SHE'S NOT MY MOTHER.
SILENCE!!
--SLAVES OVER A HOT STOVE FOR THIS FAMILY, AND WE EXPECT YOU TO ARRIVE ON TIME.

AND I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU NO FLYING AT THE DINNER TABLE.
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I DID TODAY?
FRANKLY, DAUGHTER, I'M TOO TIRED WITH THE QUARTER END.
WELL, DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT TODAY IS?
OF COURSE! IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

NO, DAD, IT'S HALLOWEEN!!
BUT... HALLOWEEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY.
31 HALLOWEEN
Winifred's Birthday
FORGET MY BIRTHDAY!! TODAY IS HALLOWEEN, WHEN THE DOOR TO THE HUMAN WORLD OPENS!

OH, FOR-- YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE DOOR, HAVE YOU?

OH, I'VE BEEN TO THE DOOR, FATHER. AND I'VE BEEN THROUGH IT AS WELL!
I'VE BEEN DOING SO FOR YEARS!

THAT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BY THE EVIL TRADE COMMISSION! LISTEN—

NO! YOU LISTEN! FOR CENTURIES, OUR PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE HUMAN WORLD, RETURNING ONLY WITH STORIES OF MASKED MARAUDERS LYING IN WAIT.
THOUGH OUR PEOPLE'S RESOLVE MAY HAVE FADED, THE DOOR REMAINED. AND THROUGH IT, I HAVE SEEN THE TRUTH WITH MY OWN EYES! THERE ARE NO MASKED MOBS! ONLY CHILDREN!
CHILDREN WEARING PLASTIC!
LI'L COUNTESS' 1ST RECON MISSION!

THE HUMANS DON'T SEE US AS A THREAT ANYMORE! I CANNOT ALLOW-
WINIFRED, PLEASE! WE LOST INTEREST IN THE HUMANS A LONG TIME AGO.

EVER SINCE WE DISCOVERED A CLEAN-BURNING FUEL, THERE HAS BEEN NO NEED TO INVADE THEIR WORLD.
THAT KIND OF TALK MIGHT FLY AT YOUR OFFICE, BUT THERE'S MORE TO MY STORY.
YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS PUTS BLOOD ON THIS TABLE!!

STAY OUT OF THIS, ABBY.

ENOUGH OF THIS. YOU'RE BEING RIDIC-- UH...
WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE?
MARAUDERS, INDEED! MAYBE YOU HAVE LOST YOUR EVIL PRIDE, BUT I WILL NOT BE MOCKED BY BRIGHTLY COLORED CHILDREN!
I CONSIDER THIS MATTER CLOSED. IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME BACK THEN.
THAT'S JUST WHAT PEOPLE SAY WHEN THEY KNOW THEY'RE WRONG!
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
AND YOU'LL STAY IN THERE UNTIL YOU'VE LEARNED SOME RESPECT!
TIME OUT

Ring!
beep
SPEAK.
AH, HAMMER, HOW'S THE PLAN COMING ALONG?
UH-HUH...
THAT'S IT?!

THERE HAD BETTER NOT BE ANY PHONE CONVERSATIONS GOING ON IN THAT COFFIN!

HAMMER, I'M NOT REALLY FREE TO TALK RIGHT NOW. MEET ME AT THE PORTAL IN TEN MINUTES.

YEAH, HER NAME'S WINIFRED. HER DAD IS VINCE PALE. HE'S A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE BLOOD BONDS. RUNS A HUGE CORPORATION, BASICALLY RUNS THINGS AROUND HERE.
SHE TRIES TO MAKE HERSELF OUT TO BE A BIG TO-DO, BUT WE JUST TRY TO IGNORE HER.

WINIFRED?
Hee Hee

DON'T LAUGH, SLIPPERS McGEE. BUT I HEAR SHE LIKES TO CALL HERSELF "THE COUNTESS," SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO BE HER FRIEND, I WOULDN'T USE HER REAL NAME.

I DON'T WANT TO BE HER FRIEND. I JUST WANT HER TO UNDO THE CURSE OR WHATEVER SHE PUT ON MY--

HEY, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T HELP HER?

LISTEN, KID, I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU. YOUR WORLD ISN'T THAT HOT. OUR EVIL HEALTH CARE IS BETTER THAN YOURS. SAME GOES FOR OUR EVIL SCHOOLS. NOW MAYBE I'M NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED OR FORMALLY EDUCATED, BUT STILL.

BUT YOUR LEADER IS A VICIOUS BLOODSUCKER!
HEY, WHAT LEADER ISN'T? WAKKA-WAKKA-WAKKA!

WELL, YOU MAY NOT WANT MY WORLD, BUT SHE SURE SEEMS TO.
HOW CAN I GET RID OF HER?

YOU COULD FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RAT-A-TAT!

BECOME ONE OF US. THAT WAY, YOU'RE ON EVEN GROUND!

OH, I GET IT! YOU COULD BITE ME AND-

GEEZ!! DO YOU HAVE, LIKE, SOME LATENT DESIRE TO BE MAULED BY WEREWOLVES? WEIRDO!
WELL, AREN'T YOU GONNA BITE ME?
NO! I DON'T DO KIDS.

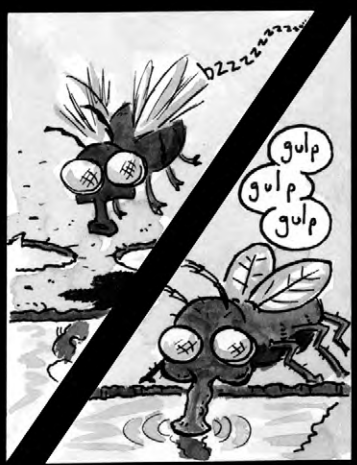
WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT! I WANDER INTO SOME EVIL DIMENSION AND RUN INTO A WEREWOLF WITH A MORAL CODE! NOW HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CHANGE?
NOW HOLD ON! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, YOU KNOW...
...LESSER-KNOWN, LESS VIOLENT WAYS...

OH?
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU COULD...

...DRINK OUT OF MY FOOTPRINT!

WHAT? EWW! THAT'S NOT TRUE!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE HELPING ME! THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING WEREWOLVES DARE THEIR LITTLE BROTHERS TO DO!
NO, IT'S TRUE! OOH, QUICK! LOOK!


bzzzzzzzz...
gulp
gulp
gulp

bzz?!!

AWOOOOOOOOOOOOO...
...OOOOOOOOOOOO--
SNACKT!
SO WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BIRD?
NOTHING.
AWW!
...WELL, IT WORKS. GUESS I BETTER GET IT OVER WITH.
HMM... SURE ARE A LOT OF FOOTPRINTS AROUND THIS STUMP.
FOR THE CROSSWORD!
EVIL NEWS

I'M NOT DRINKING THAT! IT'S DISGUSTING!!
OKAY, FINE. I'M SORRY I EVEN BROUGHT IT UP.
YOUR ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO ASK THE COUNTESS TO CHANGE YOU HERSELF.
REALLY? I JUST WALK UP AND ASK?
YEAH, VAMPIRES HAVE THIS WEIRD THING ABOUT ETIQUETTE. IF YOU ASK HER POLITELY ENOUGH, SHE'D HAVE TO OBLIGE.
I'M BASICALLY GETTING HER PERMISSION TO STOP HER. THAT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.
LITTLE AROUND HERE DOES.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES?
OH, YEAH.
CAN YOU TAKE ME TO HER?
NO.
PRACTICING HER POLITENESS
WHY NOT?

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
AND HOW DID I NOT NOTICE THAT THIS WHOLE TIME?
WELL, SEE, I'M A WOLF-MAN. YOU KNOW, ON TWO LEGS.
THE FOUR-LEGGERS DON'T LIKE MY KIND, SO THEY TIED ME UP HERE.
WOLVES TIED YOU UP?
SEEMS TO BE THE CASE.
AND SET UP AN ENTIRE DOG RUN?
WELL, WHEN THEY WERE PEOPLE.
LOOK, KID, I'M TIED UP.
DO YOU WANT ME TO TRY TO UNTIE YOU?
NO, I'M GOOD. IT'S ACTUALLY NOT A BAD LITTLE STRETCH I'VE GOT HERE.

OKAY, BUT HOW CAN I FIND THE COUNTESS IF YOU'RE STUCK HERE?

WELL, TO GO BACK TO YOUR WORLD, SHE'D HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE DOOR UP THIS PATH. THAT'S HOW YOU GOT HERE, RIGHT?
...OH YEAH! I GUESS I'LL WAIT FOR HER BACK THERE.

COULD YOU DO ME A LITTLE FAVOR BEFORE YOU GO?
SURE, WHAT IS IT?

THROW THIS.

MEANWHILE, JUST DOWN THE PATH...
...STUPID ABIGAIL... "SLAVES OVER A HOT STOVE..." PSSH! SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO IF SHE'D STOP SUCKING ALL THE HELP'S BLOOD...
ring

SPEAK!
WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW, HAMMER?
LOOK, I KNOW WHAT I SAID! JUST MEET ME AT THE PORTAL TEN MINUTES FROM NOW, OKAY?

DEMONS.
SNAP!

THERE SHE IS! REMEMBER, SHE THINKS SHE'S A BIG SHOT, SO CALL HER "COUNTESS," KISS HER BUTT, AND ACT SCARED.
... I AM SCARED.
DANG!

UMM... EXCUSE ME?
C-COUNTESS?

FEH! A HUMAN?! WHAT'S A HUMAN DOING HERE?
WELL, I... THAT IS...

WAIT A MINUTE, AREN'T YOU...
SHE SAW ME SHE KNOWS WHO I AM SHE'S ON TO ME I'M DEAD

... A CANADIAN?

HONESTLY, WHEN ARE YOU PEOPLE GOING TO LEARN? THERE ARE WEREWOLVES IN THESE WOODS!

ACTUALLY, I'M FROM THE TOWN THROUGH THAT DOOR.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S THROUGH THE DOOR?
Y- YES?

WELL, THEN...

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU UP, MISS...?

MY NAME'S ANGELA.

GOOD EVENING, ANGELA. AS YOU ALREADY SEEM TO KNOW (DUE TO MY STERLING REPUTATION), I AM THE COUNTESS.

YOU SEE, ANGELA, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS BEFALLEN YOUR TOWN. AN EVIL FORCE IS TAKING CONTROL! I AM TRAVELLING TO YOUR TOWN NOW TO HELP.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD ASSIST ME?
UH... SURE.

HERE'S THE THING, THOUGH: THIS EVIL IS PRETTY POWERFUL.

THUS, YOU WOULD NEED TO BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MATCH IT.

IF YOU WANT, I COULD MAKE YOU MORE POWERFUL...
...WITH THIS!

So I'd be just like you?
NO! NOT LIKE ME!!
AHEM... not QUITE like me.
Come, I'll explain in your world.
This magical scroll has the power to change ordinary humans like you into MONSTERS.
But magic isn't an exact science.
The change tends to be based on clothing, or the scroll just makes something up. That's why I'm here on Halloween. Any requests?
Oh, yes! Please wait here, countess.
She totally thinks I'm on her side.
After a quick jaunt inside...
Ready!

SO WHAT'S ALL THIS?
WHA...? IT'S MY WITCH COSTUME! I WAS GOING TO BE A WITCH FOR HALLOWEEN!
OH-OH-OHHH! I SEE NOW! IT'S SIMPLY ADORABLE! IT'S BOTH CLASSIC AND COUGH NO MATCH FOR A VAMPIRE COUGH.
WHAT?
NOTHING. LET'S MAKE YOU A WITCH, HMM?
WAIT! WAIT!!
FOOSH!
IS THIS GOING TO HURT?
AAAAAA
AAAAA
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
AAAA!!

NOT BAD! NOT AS FABULOUS AS ME, OF COURSE, BUT NOT BAD AT ALL!

JUST DON'T WORK ON YOUR HAIR OR POSTURE, AND WE'LL GET ALONG.
OH MY GOD! IT'S SO SHORT!!

YOU'RE WELCOME.
WHERE'S MY HAT?

HAT, SHMAT. WHERE'S MY DEMON?
YOUR WHAT?
...OH YEAH.
beep boop

ring!
ring!
rin--
click
HAMMER HERE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHERE AM I?" I'VE BEEN BACK AND FORTH THREE TIMES ALREADY, DRAGGING YOUR INFERNAL SUITCASE AROUND!

"BUY A WATCH?" INSOLENT WHELP! THERE'S A CLOCK ON THE PHONE!

BYEEE, HAMMER. BYE! I'M HANGING UP NOW. BYE!
I'M RIGHT HERE!

AH, HAMMER. GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU CAN ARRIVE SOMEWHAT CLOSE TO ON-TIME.
IGNORE IT, IGNORE IT...
YOU DON'T OWN THE HAMMER!
DAMN!

SEE, ACTUALLY, I DO. THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON BEHIND SUMMONING ONE'S OWN DEMON.
DON'T PUSH ME.
HOW?!

FINE. SO WHERE ARE ALL THE TOWNSFOLK?
AT A DWELLING KNOWN AS THE SWEENEY RESIDENCE.

YOU DIDN'T EAT ANY SOULS, DID YOU?
ONLY ONE... TO SET AN EXAMPLE.
YOU ATE SOMEONE'S SOUL?!

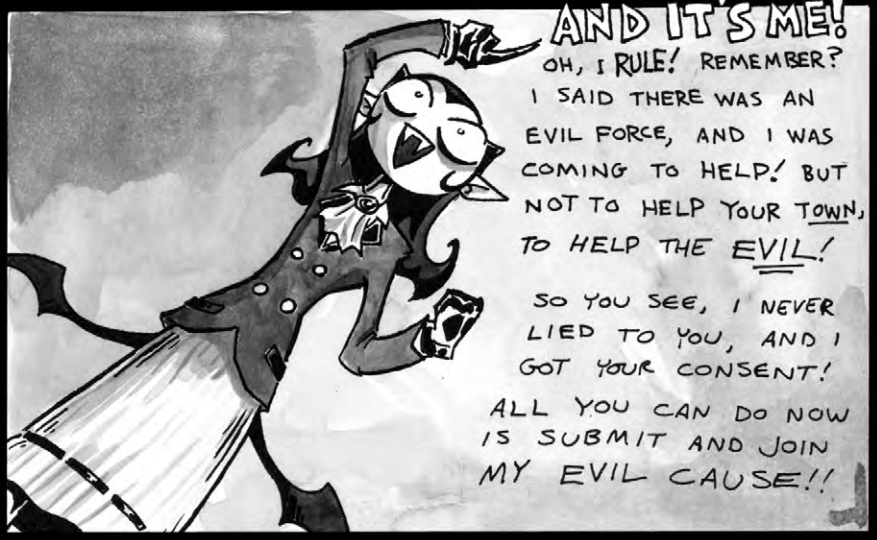
TO BE HONEST, I MERELY CHEWED HIS SOUL. BUT I THINK I MADE MY POINT.
STOP IT!

COUNTESS, WHO IS THIS WHO QUESTIONS MY SOUL-CHEWING?

WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? HAMMER, ANGELA. ANGELA, HAMMER.

BUT... SOULS?
ANGELA, ANGELA. I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T QUITE TELL YOU THE WHOLE TRUTH.

THERE IS AN EVIL FORCE TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR TOWN...


AND IT'S ME!
OH, I RULE! REMEMBER? I SAID THERE WAS AN EVIL FORCE, AND I WAS COMING TO HELP! BUT NOT TO HELP YOUR TOWN, TO HELP THE EVIL!
SO YOU SEE, I NEVER LIED TO YOU, AND I GOT YOUR CONSENT!
ALL YOU CAN DO NOW IS SUBMIT AND JOIN MY EVIL CAUSE!!

I ALREADY KNEW SHE WAS EVIL, BUT THAT'S STILL PRETTY COOL.
UH... OKAY.
'OKAY?' OKAY, WHAT?
O-OKAY... COUNTESS?
THAT'S MY SPINELESS LITTLE SUBJECT. WELCOME ABOARD!
PAT PAT

HAMMER! TO THE SWEENEY HOUSE!
ANOTHER EX-HUMAN IN OUR INNER CIRCLE? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW OUR FIRST THREE HAVE BEEN AT THE GRAVEYARD FOR OVER AN HOUR AND HAVE YET TO BRING ME A SINGLE CORPSE. THEY'RE JUST HANGING OUT!

HI, JOE AND TJ HERE. WE JUST THOUGHT WE'D THANK YOU FOR READING OUR FIRST ISSUE.
THAT'S RIGHT. SO IF YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS AT MRS. SWEENEY'S...
—AND YOU DO—
...THEN WE'LL SEE YOU IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ALREADY WROTE OURSELVES INTO—
SHH!

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